

Catamount Spirit

PUBLISHED FOR ALUMNI, FRIENDS & EMPLOYEES OF POTOMAC STATE COLLEGE OF WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY



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Honorees to be Recognized During Homecoming Banquet

Charles Ball, Alumni Achievement Award

Charles spent a 30-year career at Milliken & Company where he served as National Sales Manager and Senior Market Manager.

After retiring from Milliken, Charles became the business development leader for Batson-Cook Construction Company. He currently serves as project manager for the National Infantry Museum which is located in Columbus, Ga.

Before graduating from Potomac State in 1957, Charles was a member of the Players Club, Theta Sigma Chi Fraternity, ROTC, and the Circle K Club. He served as president of the graduating class and also played intercollegiate baseball and basketball.

Charles earned his business degree from WVU in 1959. He served six years in the United States Army as a captain in the Special Forces Unit as an A-Team Executive Officer and Team Leader during the Vietnam War.

He was inducted into the Order of Saint Maurice in 2008 which is awarded to individ-

uals who have served in the Infantry Branch of the United States Army with integrity, distinction, dedication, moral character, and professional competence.

Charles is an active member of the National Infantry Foundation, the Special Forces Association, LaGrange Gridiron Club, the Society of American Military Engineers and the American Society of Healthcare Engineers.

Charles served as a deacon in the First Baptist Church of LaGrange, Ga. and was active with "Carpenters for Christ" where he assisted with the construction of churches in Europe and Brazil. He and his wife, Barbara, are the parents of two married daughters and have four grandchildren.



Patricia Harman, Distinguished Service Award

Though she never attended Potomac State, Patricia has been a strong supporter of the College for more than a decade. Her dedication to PSC began in 1998 with the establishment of the Chester D. Harman, MD, Memorial

Scholarship. The scholarship, named in memory of her husband, provides financial support for a freshman and sophomore majoring in pre-medicine or pre-pharmacy from either Grant or Pendleton counties.

Patricia has made multiple donations to the College enabling such projects as the preservation and exhibition of the West Virginia Prep Cistern Collection housed in the Mary F. Shipper Library. She also contributed to the mounted statue at the campus entrance which welcomes students and guests to "Catamount Country."

Patricia was the recipient of the Citizenship Award in 1995 from the Seneca Rocks VFW in Seneca Rocks, W.Va. She is a 1953 graduate of Harman High School and currently resides in Petersburg, W.Va.



Jeffry M. Kessel, Alumni Achievement Award

Jeff serves as a multistate tax partner with Deloitte and Touche, one of the four largest accounting firms in the world, where

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Amber Myers, Young Alumni Award

Amber received her associate degree in early childhood education from Potomac State in 2006; she earned her Regents Bachelor of Arts Degree with an emphasis in child development from WVU that same year. She also earned a master's degree in elementary education with an emphasis in early childhood education in December 2008.

Amber has worked at the Catamount Children's Center (a childcare center in partnership with Potomac State) for the past eight years. She is the recipient of the prestigious Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children's TYLENOL National Child Care Teacher Award which acknowledges the critical role of child care teachers in providing quality early care and education.

Amber, who has received Three-Star Directors Credentials from WVU, is currently working on a second master's degree in reading.

"My main goal is to create a learning environment for all children to grow and express themselves," said Amber. Her personal interests are in Autism Spectrum Disorders and using sign language to enhance learning in the classroom. She believes in teaching civic responsibility at an early age and has her students raise money as a class to support the Cystic Fibrosis and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Foundations. Amber is married to Harry Myers; they are the parents of two boys, Charles and Joel.



Do Catamounts Care?



This past spring, the *Catamount Spirit* ran a picture of our mascot with tears in her eyes. The caption pointed out that we were saddened to announce that, due to a lack of funds, the Alumni Association would no longer be able to provide

the *Catamount Spirit* in a printed format. Over the course of the summer it became obvious to me that doing so was not fair to the College. There are many exciting things happening here and we need to share them with our alumni and friends. We have great students, a dedicated group of faculty and a very hardworking staff. These people have done so much to advance Potomac State College in the six years that I have been here that I could not let their efforts go unnoticed. Likewise, we have many outstanding alumni and friends who deserve our recognition and appreciation. So, for at least one more time, the *Catamount Spirit* is being distributed in its printed format. I am

pleased that donations have been made available to allow us to do so. For those individuals technically inclined, the *Catamount Spirit* is also available on the Web site (www.potomac-statecollege.edu) under Alumni and Friends.

On this the 80th anniversary of our mascot, it is my hope that more Catamounts will show that they care by supporting the production of the *Catamount Spirit*. If Catamounts everywhere would donate just \$5 each, we would not have to worry whether or not we could make such an important and informational printed publication available.

I hope that you will join us for our Homecoming festivities on September 26th. We will be recognizing some of our most distinguished alumni and most generous friends. Homecoming is one of the highlights of our year and our opportunity to show you how your alma mater has grown. If you are unable to attend, please stay in touch and should you wish to be a part of making the year of the Catamount one to remember, please consider sending a donation to the Potomac State College Alumni Association.

We thank you for your support and continued interest in Potomac State.

Kerry S. Odell

Campus Provost

Alumni Spotlight

Mabel and Bill Thompson both attended Potomac State from 1935 – 1937; however, they didn't have any classes together, nor did they meet while in College, yet they celebrated 67 years of marital bliss this past July.

Mabel and Bill met in 1941 when they returned to the College for Homecoming Weekend and were invited to lunch by a mutual friend. "She showed up wearing a red and black dress, my favorite colors, and I couldn't keep my eyes off of her," said Bill. They were married in 1942.

Bill graduated from WVU with a degree in chemical engineering. His first job was at the old Celanese plant in Cumberland, Md. Bill also worked as an adjunct instructor at Potomac State at night. Bill eventually retired in 1981 after having been employed with the former Westvaco (NewPage) for thirty plus years. During his career he served as mill manager.



Mabel taught at Ridgeley High School in W.Va. for one year before going to work for Potomac Light & Power Company. She then returned to teaching and taught at Bruce High School in Westernport, Md. until her retirement.

Both found themselves back at the College recently at a ceremony which was being attended by Governor Joe Manchin, but neither one knew why.

It turns out that when Mabel was in the eighth grade, she earned the highest grade on the Golden Horseshoe test which determines who will be awarded a trip to the state capitol in Charleston, W.Va. and be pinned as a Golden Horseshoe winner. Unfortunately, Mabel's appendix ruptured and instead of heading to Charleston, she spent the

next four weeks in the hospital recovering from surgery. What makes this story unique is that

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Flower and Garden Show Update

The first Potomac State Alumni Flower and Garden Show was well attended, offered a variety of vendors and according to attendee John Harvey, "...organizers of the event are to be commended."

The event was held at the indoor riding arena which provided ample space for vendors, entertainment, demonstrations, and of course, flowers.

The PSC Alumni Association would like to thank everyone who donated flowers, time and money to make this event successful. A special thanks to our co-sponsor, Chesapeake Energy.

Liz Beavers, managing editor of the *Mineral Daily News-Tribune*, stated in her column, "The flower show, held at Potomac State's new riding arena above Stayman Field, was very well planned and provided a lot of plants and outdoor-related items to buy, as well as information for all of us weekend gardeners. I hope that it will turn into an annual event ... sort of Keyser's celebration of the coming of spring. Good job to all those involved!"

Next year's Flower and Garden Show will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010.

Fairmont Dinner

Alumni and friends of Potomac State College are invited to a Dutch-treat buffet on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 6 p.m. at Three Ways Inn, 17 Three Ways Drive in Fairmont, West Virginia. After dinner, Campus Provost Kerry Odell will give an update on the College. The cost of each meal will be \$13.95. For more information, contact Anthony Delligatti at (304) 363-2567 or the PSC Alumni Office at (304) 788-6870.

Join Us for Game-Day Tailgating

The Potomac State Alumni Association will team up with the WVU Alumni Association in welcoming alumni and friends to the Mountaineer Courtyard of the new Erickson Alumni Center for an Alumni Game-Day celebration.

This pre-game football event during the WVU vs Marshall Game on Oct. 17th will feature a menu of: baked ziti with meat sauce; cucumber, tomato and onion salad; warm-spiced apple sauce; garlic bread stick; a snack, and iced tea or water. Soda, beer and a limited cash bar will also be available.

The cost of the tailgating celebration is just \$10

which includes a game day souvenir and the menu previously mentioned as a boxed meal.

To guarantee your reservation, please send in your registration form no later than four days prior to the event. A limited number of walk-ins will be available for purchase at a cost of \$20 per ticket; however, we encourage you to pre-register in order to ensure that you are part of the Game-Day experience.

For reservations contact Gregg Cave toll free at 1-866-988-2586, extension six. The order may be placed with Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover. Please mention Potomac State at that time.



Badenhoop Named Outstanding Professor

Jay Badenhoop, Ph.D., center, professor of chemistry at Potomac State was recognized as the *2009 Outstanding Professor* at a special reception held during the Weekend of Honors earlier this spring. Presenting the plaque to Dr. Badenhoop is Phil Douthitt, professor of computer science and chair of the faculty assembly, left, and Campus Provost Kerry Odell.



Grady Chosen for Outstanding Service

Diana Grady, center, an administrative associate in the Student Affairs Office at Potomac State, was recognized as the *2009 Outstanding Staff Member of the Year* by her fellow employees at a special reception earlier this spring. Making the announcement was Campus Provost Kerry Odell. Also pictured is Michelle House, a member of the Student Support Services staff who also served as chair of the Classified Employees Council.

Elmwood Band Returns to PSC



The Potomac State College Alumni Association will once again sponsor a live performance by The Elmwood Band, featuring Keyser native Donnie Marple. The concert will take place at the Church-McKee Arts Center on the Potomac State Campus on August 27 at 8 p.m.

Elmwood has been in Nashville, Tenn. this past year working on their newly released album, *Dreaming Little Things*. The

Band was recently the opening act for the Dave Matthews Band.

Other band members include: Nash Johnson, Ruston Kelly and Derek Haight.

Ticket prices have been kept to just \$8 per person and may be purchased at Linda's Hallmark or the Grant County Bank in Keyser, W.Va., or at Fox's Pizza Den in Ft. Ashby, W.Va.

For more information call (304) 788-6870 or (304) 788-6873.

NEWSLETTER NOW ONLINE
potomacstatecollege.edu

Honorees Recognized...

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he manages a group of state tax specialists and provides state tax consulting services in western Pennsylvania, western New York and West Virginia.

Jeff has also served on the editorial advisory boards for the *Journal of State Taxation* and the Research Institute of America.

He attended Potomac State from 1976-1978 and graduated magna cum laude from West Virginia University in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. In 1983, Kessel earned a Juris Doctor degree from WVU, obtained his CPA license and was admitted to both the West Virginia and Pennsylvania bars.

Professional affiliations include: The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the West Virginia Bar Association.

Jeff is the son of the late Joseph and Margaret Kessel of Keyser, W.Va. He and his wife, Lisa, are the parents of two children, Scott and Vanessa.

Alumni Spotlight...

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this was the first time the Golden Horse-shoe test had been given.

The years passed and eventually a gentleman named Terry LaRue happened upon the fact that Mabel had never been pinned by the governor of West Virginia (as is required) so, therefore; LaRue set out to right the oversight.

This past June 11th, Bill watched from the sidelines as his wife was pinned and knighted by Governor Manchin. "I didn't know what was going on. I was just told to be here. What a surprise to be knighted after all this time!" said Mabel.

Both Mabel and Bill hold Potomac State dear to their hearts and have therefore made provisions for the College in their will by becoming members of The Church Society.

(For more information on becoming a member of The Church Society, see "Leave A Legacy" article on page 4.)

Homecoming 2009..... Eighty Years of the Catamount

It is hard to believe that our Catamount mascot has been around for eighty years. We hope you can join us for **Homecoming, September 25-26**, as we reminisce and celebrate our beloved Catamount.

Homecoming kicks off on **Friday, September 25**, with the annual **50's Get Together** at the Candlewyck Inn beginning at 6 p.m. The cost of the buffet is \$18.40 and includes a non-alcoholic drink, dessert, tax and gratuity. Reservations are required and the deadline is September 18. Contact Pat Hovis at (304) 788-4065 or phovis1@verizon.net for more information.

On **Saturday**, the **Homecoming Brunch & Recognition of Anniversary Classes '59, '84, and '99** will be held in the Heritage Room, located in the new residence hall complex, from 9 until 10:30 a.m. Campus Provost Kerry Odell will provide a presentation of new campus initiatives at 10 a.m.

If you are a golfer, we invite you to participate in the **Potomac State Alumni Golf Outing on Saturday**. For information or to make reservations, contact William Ack at (304) 788-3276.

Other activities scheduled for Saturday include a tour of the new residence hall, a PSC baseball double-header scrimmage game, and a celebration of the Catamount.

The day will culminate with the **Awards Banquet** which is being held in the Davis Conference Center, the former Potomac Café. Alumni Achievement Honorees include Charles Ball, Class of 1957, and Jeffry Kessel, Class of 1978. Our Distinguished Service Honoree is Patricia Harman. The recipient of the Young Alumni Award is Amber Myers, Class of 2006. The social hour will begin at 5:30 with dinner at 6 p.m. The cost for the dinner is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Reservations are required and we are asking you to respond no later than September 18 by contacting Libby Nichols at 1-800-262-7332 or (304) 788-6870.

For a complete schedule, visit the alumni page on the College's Web site: potomacstatecollege.edu



LEAVE A LEGACY®

Make A Difference In The Lives That Follow

Walking around the Potomac State College of WVU's campus is always a pleasant experience. During the semesters, you'll see many students hurrying off to classes in over 49 majors. The small campus setting makes everyone feel at home.

The future of Potomac State College is a bright one. The number of two-year and four-year programs is growing and providing an expanded opportunity to learn. As many understand, private support for the College is more crucial than ever.

A simple way to join with those who want to improve Potomac State's future is to become a member of The Church Society by including a gift provision in your will or revocable trust. Give your attorney the wording of "to the WVU Foundation for the benefit of Potomac State College of WVU" and your special support can be put in place at the same time you provide for your family's future.

Choosing to set up a scholarship for students in any program, providing for faculty development, or supporting library and technology needs are wonderful directions. For certain amounts, a gift fund can be endowed so that it will last forever and yield annual income which will carry out the purpose you choose. Such a permanent endowment fund can be named for you or anyone you choose to honor.

To learn more or to let us know that you've already taken this important step to support Potomac State, contact Libby Nichols, Alumni/Development Associate, at (304) 788-6870 or lnnichols@mail.wvu.edu. Together we can make a difference.



- Our golf team participated in the NJCCA national tournament and came in 10th overall and 3rd place highest individual.
- The baseball team captured the Region XX Title for the eighth time in 10 years.
- Our women's softball team repeated as the Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference champs.
- The women's basketball team won the Pennsylvania Collegiate Athletic Association Championship.